

OPPOSITION TO SB 1021

Hello! Madame Chair and members of the Committee on Human Services. My name is Mark Hess and I am currently the Chair of the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee for the Resident Association at Holladay Park Plaza.

In recent years – related to the COVID pandemic and other changes affecting the caregiving professions – institutions have had to adapt rapidly to maintain the services needed by their residents. Adaptation and change have been the key words.

While appearing to protect residents from changes in the care provided, passage of the bill would make it difficult if not impossible for the Retirement Community to adapt. Maintaining good care has required changing the source of services to residents (in-house or contracted). The understanding of optimal care, regulatory standards, and the realities of inflation have all required adaptation and change.

Under the terms of SB 1021 many of those changes needed to maintain and improve care for residents would become impossible. All services and programs become frozen in time. Changes which would benefit and would be supported by most residents, changes which could lead to overall improved care and stability of the institution could be blocked by one resident who identifies some service or program as personally undesirable.

The well-being of the community, including the stability and continued function of the institution are threatened.